Diversification programme by HZL

4170. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindusan Zinc Ltd. (HZL) has a proposal to diversify its activities;

(b) it so, the fund earmarked for implementing diversification programme; and

(c) the details of the diversification programme drawn up by HZL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Hindustan Zinc Ltd , (HZL) has the following diversification plans:—

(i) Exploration and mining of gold deposit at Jagpura, Banswara District, in Rajasthan. The Company has initially taken up exploratory drilling to be completed by 1995-96 at an estimated cost of Rs 183 lakhs.

(ii) HZL has proposed to enter into a Joint Venture with Bureau of Geology and Mining (BRGM), France and Vietnam Rare and Precious Minerals Corporation, Vietnam, to exploit gold prospects in Pac Lang area of Vietnam. HZL's share of investment in exploration and feasibility phases is estimated at US $ 1.72 million.

Opening of Regional Office of IBM in Orissa

4171. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regional offices of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) opened by Government at different places;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to open one branch of IBM in Orissa:

(c) if so, the place where the new Regional Office is going to be located: and

(d) the steps taken in the opening of Regional Offices of IBM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has eleven regional offices at Ajmer, Banagalore, Calcutta, Dehradun; Margao (Goa); Hyderabad; Jabalpur, Madras, Nagpur; Ranchi; Udaipur and one sub-regional at Nelore.

(b) to (d) Due to financial constraints, the Government is not in a position to set up any Regional Office of IBM in Orissa, at present.

Joint venture with Bulgaria

4172. M'SS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bulgaria has recently shown interest to have joint ventures in the mining sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bulgaria has invited an Indian delegation of socialists from the mining sector to visit that country to identity areas of cooperation including establishment of Joint ventures between the two countries. The Government has accepted the invitation.

गुजरात में कच्छ जिले में उपलब्ध खनिज

4173. श्री राघवजी : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गुजरात राज्य के कच्छ जिले में कुछ खनिज प्रचुर मात्रा में उपलब्ध